Message Text

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TAGS: EAIR, ETRN, TGEN, UR, US

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS ON MICROWAVE LANDING SYSTEMS; DIRECT APPROACH BY CONGRESSMAN BURTON TO SOVIET OFFICIAL.

1. DURING FEBRUARY 14 MEETING ON OTHER SUBJECTS, DEPUTY MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION TATYANA ANODINA EXPRESSED SOVIET CONFUSION OVER TELEGRAM RECENTLY RECEIVED FROM CONGRESSMAN JOHN L. BURTON. BURTON'S TELEGRAM WAS SENT BY COMMERCIAL MEANS TO MIKHAIL KUZNETSOV, USSR REPRESENTATIVE TO ALL-WEATHER OPERATIONS PANEL (AWOP) OF INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO). MESSAGE SAYS THAT BURTON'S "SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ACTIVITIES AND TRANSPORTATION IS INVESTIGATING UK CHARGES THAT FAA PRESENTATION OF LINCOLN LAB BRUSSELS SCENARIO IN AWOP WP 321 CONSTITUTED ATTEMPT TO MISLEAD AWOP." IT POSES SIX QUESTIONS REGARDING BRUSSELS SIMULATION AND REQUESTS "IMMEDIATE RESPONSES." ANODINA HAS AUTHORIZED KUZNETSOV TO REPLY TO BURTON AND HAS GIVEN US ORIGINAL OF KUZNETSOV'S LETTER FOR TRANSMISSION. LETTER APPEARS UPON CURSORY PERUSAL TO BE CAREFULLY WORDED RESPONSE AT TECHNICAL LEVEL WHICH NEATLY AVOIDS INVOLVEMENT IN THORNIER ETHICAL ISSUES AT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH QUESTIONS ARE CLEARLY AIMED. WE WILL POUCH ORIGINAL OF KUZNETSOV'S LETTER FEBRUARY 18, ALONG WITH UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION.

2. ANODINA WAS OBVIOUSLY PUZZLED BY CHANNEL OF COMMUNICATION SELECTED BY BURTON AND WAS CURIOUS AS TO HIS BASIC INTENT. SHE REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY INQUIRE INFORMALLY

WHETHER OTHER COUNTRIES' (CANADA, FRG, FRANCE, ETC.)
AWOP REPRESENTATIVES HAD BEEN SIMILARLY QUERIED, AND
WONDERED WHETHER SUCH HOUSE INVESTIGATION PORTENDED SHIFT
IN US AAPROACH TO TIME REFERENCE SCANNING BEAM/MICROWAVE
LANDING SYSTEM (TRSB/MLS). SHE ASKED SPECIFICALLY
WHETHER IT FORESHADOWED LESS ACTIVE PURSUIT IN FUTURE.

3. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: IT IS CLEAR TO US THAT BURTON CABLE HAS RAISED DOUBTS AT MINCIVAIR ABOUT US POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT, PERHAPS EVEN THE FIRMNESS WITH WHICH IT IS HELD. WE VIEW THIS AS REGRETTABLE DEVELOPMENT, AS USSR HAS HITHERTO BEEN PROVIDING CONSISTENT AND WELCOME SUPPORT ON TRSB/MLS AND WE DO NOT WISH TO APPEAR IN SOVIET EYES TO NOW BE WAVERING OURSELVES. WE THINK IT WOULD BE MOST USEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD PROVIDE US SPECIFIC WORDING OF OFFICIAL STATEMENT WE COULD MAKE TO SOVIETS MAKING CLEAR THAT USG POSITION ON TRSB/MLS HAS IN NO WAY BEEN MODIFIED. DEPARTMENT MAY ALSO WISH TO DISCUSS THIS WITH DOT AND FAA. MATLOCK

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